REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 33 due to informalities in the claims. These informalities have been corrected as requested by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 34, 17, 20, 23, 25, 28, 31 and 33-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weiss, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,900,877, hereinafter "Weiss").

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner objected to independent claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 37, 41 and 45 as well as to dependent claims 38, 42 and 46 as being anticipated by Weiss in col. 8, lines 40-63. However, on col 8. lines 40-63 Weiss discloses a means for displaying to a user a button control object in an active (unpressed) state and in an inactive (pressed) state where in each case the button is presented with a different appearance. This is accomplished by containing each button, of the two different states, in a separate graphic control layer.

Weiss does not disclose creating a graphic file containing a list of control objects, wherein each object is in at least one layer and wherein each object is editable by a user. Weiss does not disclose how the separate graphic control layers in Weiss are created and

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certainly does not disclose that they were created in a "multi-layered type computer program."

Instead Weiss discloses a technique to create a graphical user interface based on a collection of graphic control layers, each layer describing a control element and having a transparent region and an opaque region both of which can accept user input (for example, a mouse click). See col. 2, lines 46-64.

In Weiss, there is no graphic file containing a list of control objects, where each control object defines attributes of a control element. Furthermore, in Weiss each control element is contained in a single graphic control layer, and cannot be in multiple layers.

Weiss does not disclose allowing a user to change the attributes (such as appearance, behavior, name or type) of a control element by editing the graphic file containing the list of control objects by, for example, retyping via the keyboard or via menu selection (Figure 5 and page 15, lines 25-28 of the present application).

In addition, the graphic control layers disclosed in Weiss are not part of a graphic file that can be opened or accessed by an application program other than the program used to create the graphic file.

Dependent claims 4, 12, 20, 28, 39, 43 and 47 were rejected as being anticipated by Weiss in col. 6, lines 12-32 and col. 8, lines 40-63. However, col. 6, lines 12-32 in Weiss refer to Figure 2 which illustrates a screen (203) displaying a series of different graphic control elements (such as buttons, sliders, radio buttons, etc) and the different possible states of each element. Each graphic control element disclosed inWeiss is not part of a control object which is in a layer that can be optionally grouped with multiple other layers in a graphic file . Furthermore, in Weiss control elements cannot be grouped together so that, for example, all members of a particular group may be described as acting in the same manner or so that changes to one member of a group will

automatically be transferred to the other members (page 15, lines 28-31 of the present application).

Based on the aforementioned arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims objected to are now in condition of allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, 22 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,900,877, hereinafter "Weiss").

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Applicant believes the objections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome by the arguments presented above.
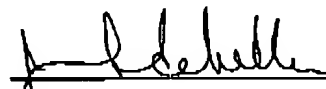
CONCLUSION.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 11/22 , 2005

James C. Sheller, Jr.
Reg. No. 31,195

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

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